

# Hawaii Vegetables

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**November 9, 2005**

## Wet season begins

Hawaii's wet season starts in October; and true to form the month started with some heavy showers that actually began on September 30. Very intense rains fell over parts of Oahu and Kauai with flash flooding occurring in areas where streams overflowed their banks. However, no significant losses were reported. The heavy showers dissipated by October 2 and were replaced by two weeks of moderate trade winds. During this period, the trades brought almost daily showers to windward-facing areas of most islands. On October 22 and 23, a shear line, the first of this wet season, brought trade wind generated showers to most areas of the State. More rain followed on October 24 with parts of Kauai and Oahu receiving over 2 inches of rains. Finally, the month ended as it began with heavy morning rains pelting windward parts of Oahu. Vegetable crops made generally fair progress during the month as wet conditions, cloudy skies, shorter daylight hours, and cooler temperatures hampered development.

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Year-ago, month-ago, current, and upcoming harvested acreage.

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Forecast of 2005 production and market conditions.

Changes in harvested acreage will be mixed in November. Double-digit percentage increases will be registered by **head cabbage** (+32%), **mustard cabbage** (+25%), and **green onions** (+11%). Vegetables expected to show a decline in harvested acreage are **Chinese cabbage** (-17%), **sweet corn** (-17%), **dry onions** (-12%), and **romaine** (-38%).■

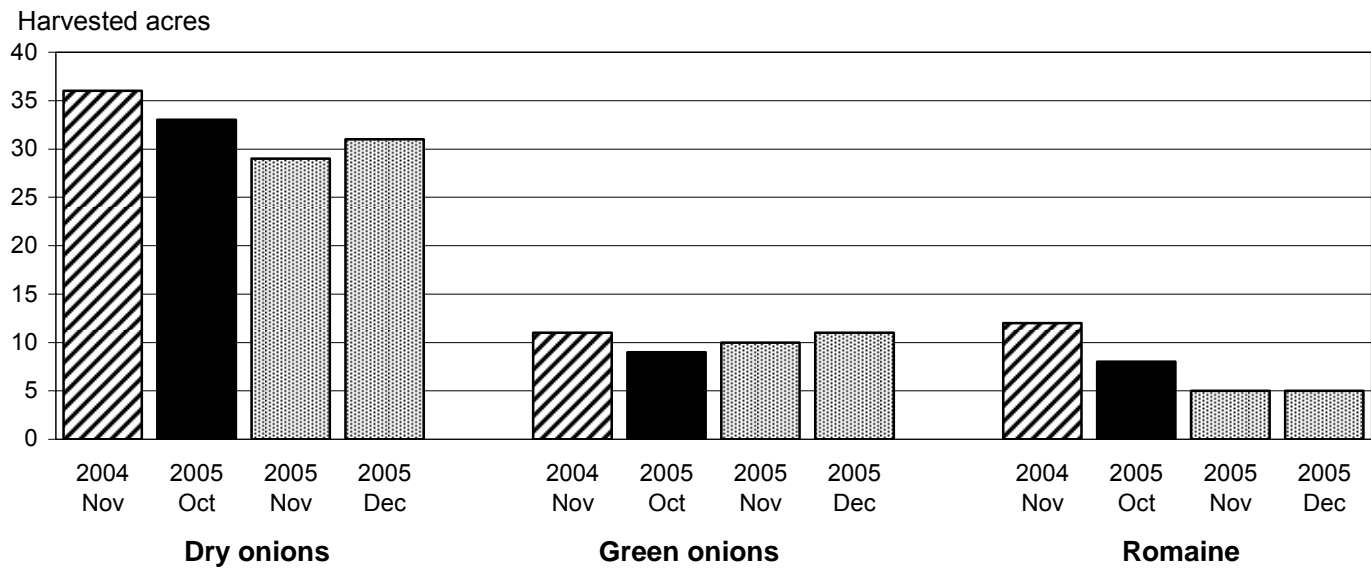
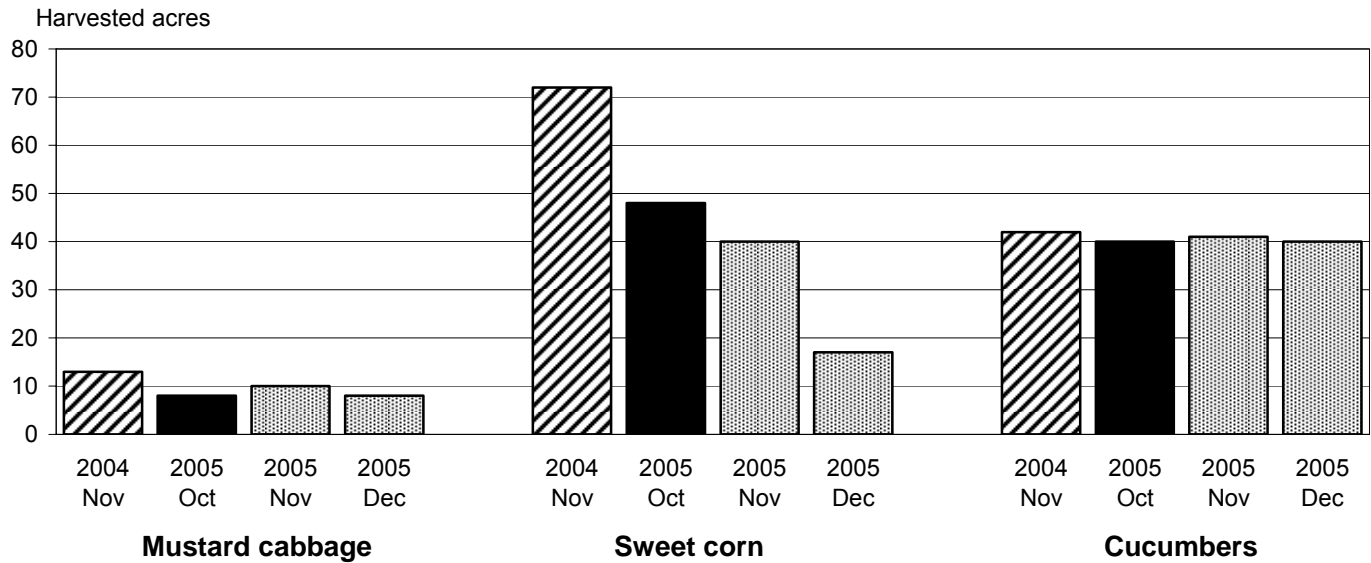
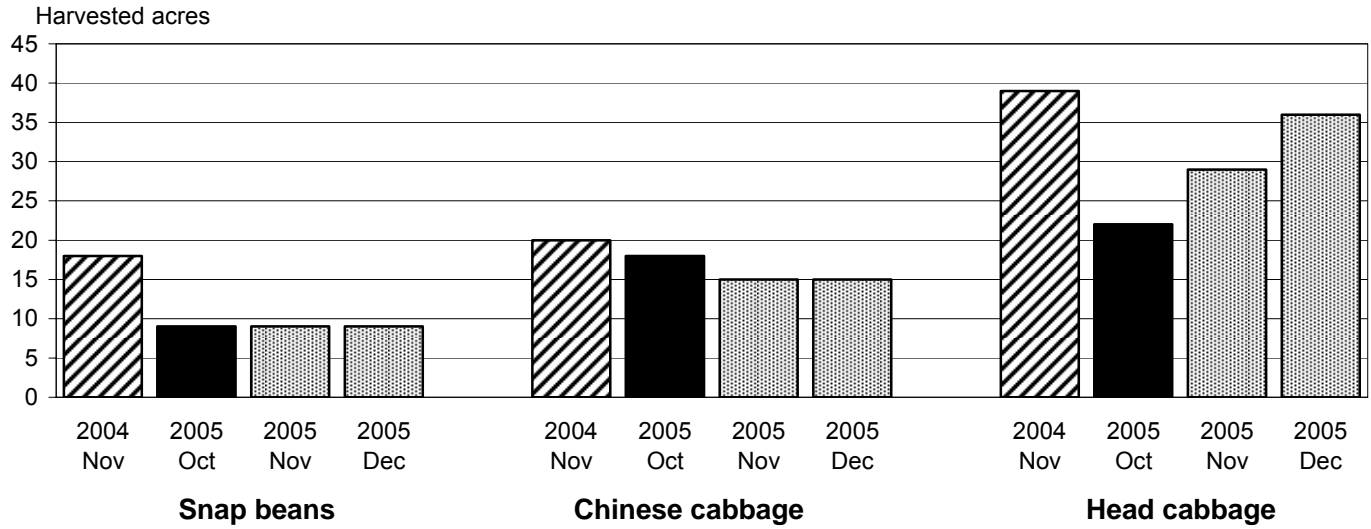


**Acreage** Acres planted, harvested, and for harvest for 11 selected vegetables, State of Hawaii.

| Crop               | Acres planted |          | Acres harvested |          | Acres for harvest |          |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
|                    | Sep 2005      | Oct 2005 | Sep 2005        | Oct 2005 | Nov 2005          | Dec 2005 |
| Beans, snap        | 9             | 10       | 20              | 9        | 9                 | 9        |
| Cabbage, Chinese   | 16            | 19       | 20              | 18       | 15                | 15       |
| Cabbage, head      | 40            | 42       | 27              | 22       | 29                | 36       |
| Cabbage, mustard   | 8             | 11       | 13              | 8        | 10                | 8        |
| Corn, sweet        | 38            | 15       | 40              | 48       | 40                | 17       |
| Cucumbers          | 40            | 41       | 41              | 40       | 41                | 40       |
| Lettuce, head      | 7             | 9        | 7               | 7        | 7                 | 2        |
| Lettuce, semi-head | 5             | 5        | 5               | 5        | 5                 | 5        |
| Onions, dry        | 11            | 12       | 9               | 33       | 29                | 31       |
| Onions, green      | 10            | 11       | 9               | 9        | 10                | 11       |
| Romaine            | 7             | 8        | 6               | 8        | 5                 | 5        |

# Harvested acreage charts

Acres harvested a year ago
  Acres harvested last month
  Acres intended for harvest



# October Review

## October Production Higher For Most Vegetables

**SNAP BEANS** production totaled 37,000 pounds in October, down 49 percent from September. A 55 percent decline in harvested acreage, from 20 acres in September to 9 acres in October, is the reason for the overall drop in production.

**HEAD CABBAGE** production is estimated at 509,000 pounds in October, up 7 percent from September. Harvested acreage declined 19 percent in October, but yield increased as cooler temperatures benefited the crop.

**SWEET CORN** production is estimated at 147,000 pounds for October, up 4 percent from September. Corn fields in leeward areas made good progress while those in windward areas made mostly fair progress due to cloudy skies and occasionally heavy showers.

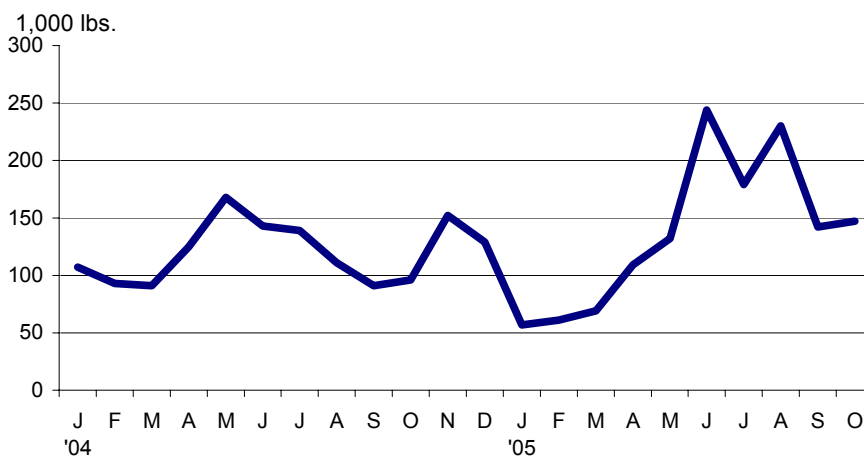
**CUCUMBER** production is estimated at 567,000 pounds for October, up 15 percent from September. Crop conditions varied from fair to good depending on location.

**DRY ONION** production totaled 235,000 pounds in October, up 61 percent from September. Most of the increase in production occurred on Oahu.

**GREEN PEPPER** production is estimated at 232,000 pounds for October, up 2 percent from September. Crop conditions were fair to good with heavy irrigation.

**TOMATO** production is pegged at 1.1 million pounds for October, down 17 percent from September. Oahu fields were in fair to good condition. Greenhouse plantings on the Big Island were in mostly good conditions with a few in fair condition. Fruit quality was reportedly good with minimal insect and disease damage. ■

**Hawaii Sweet Corn  
Monthly Production, 2004 – 2005**



**Acreage, average yield, sales, and average farm price, October 2005, State of Hawaii.**

| Crop               | Total acres on Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> | October 2005    |                             |             |                    | January-to-date sales |        |         |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------|---------|
|                    |                                    | Acres harvested | Average yield <sup>1/</sup> | Total sales | Average farm price | 2004 <sup>2/</sup>    | 2005   | Change  |
|                    |                                    |                 | ----- 1,000 lbs. -----      |             | Cents per lb.      | ----- 1,000 lbs ----- |        | Percent |
| Beans, snap        | 19                                 | 9               | 4.1                         | 37          | 101.9              | 708                   | 555    | - 22    |
| Cabbage, Chinese   | 26                                 | 18              | 23.1                        | 415         | 32.5               | 4,289                 | 4,636  | 8       |
| Cabbage, head      | 83                                 | 22              | 23.1                        | 509         | 33.5               | 6,847                 | 7,778  | 14      |
| Cabbage, mustard   | 14                                 | 8               | 10.8                        | 86          | 49.4               | 1,146                 | 1,155  | 1       |
| Corn, sweet        | 63                                 | 48              | 3.1                         | 147         | 47.8               | 1,164                 | 1,370  | 18      |
| Cucumbers          | 72                                 | 40              | 14.2                        | 567         | 44.4               | 4,637                 | 4,585  | - 1     |
| Lettuce, head      | 9                                  | 7               | 8.1                         | 57          | 75.1               | 658                   | 587    | - 11    |
| Lettuce, semi-head | 9                                  | 5               | 6.0                         | 30          | 79.1               | 308                   | 270    | - 12    |
| Onions, dry        | 77                                 | 33              | 7.1                         | 235         | 129.8              | 1,260                 | 2,089  | 66      |
| Onions, green      | 25                                 | 9               | 12.6                        | 113         | 94.0               | 962                   | 990    | 3       |
| Peppers, green     | <sup>3/</sup>                      | 22              | 10.5                        | 232         | 62.5               | 2,608                 | 2,461  | - 6     |
| Romaine            | 11                                 | 8               | 15.8                        | 126         | 62.6               | 1,212                 | 1,352  | 12      |
| Tomatoes           | <sup>3/</sup>                      | 77              | 13.6                        | 1,050       | 68.6               | 13,190                | 11,489 | - 13    |

<sup>1/</sup> Total sales divided by acres harvested. <sup>2/</sup> Revised. <sup>3/</sup> Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

## U.S. 2005 Asparagus Production

### **Asparagus Crop Down Again**

U.S. production of asparagus is forecast at 1.56 million cwt. in 2005, down 9 percent from 2004 and 15 percent below 2003. This is the fifth consecutive year that U.S. asparagus production has declined. Harvested area is down 3 percent to 51,000 acres – also the fifth consecutive year of decline. Increased import pressure and the associated reduction in processing facilities, plus the introduction of higher-yields varieties, has sliced asparagus acreage 34 percent since 2000. Fresh production in 2005 is forecast to drop 4 percent to 1.1 million cwt., while processed production dropped 18 percent to 22,900 short tons. In California, the top producing State, asparagus production was estimated to have declined 9 percent from a year earlier to 744,000 cwt. Although harvested area was unchanged, yields were down 9 percent, due largely to periods of unusually hot weather during the season.

### **Increased imports contribute to lower prices**

Despite the reduction in output, shipping-point prices were pressured lower due partly to increased import volume (up 11 percent through July) and soft demand caused by the sluggish economy. Fresh-market prices declined 21 percent from last year's record-high average of \$140 per cwt. However, even after adjusting for inflation, asparagus prices during 2000-02 were 8 percent above the average of the 1990s.

### **Domestic processing of asparagus declining**

In Washington, the second largest asparagus producing State, the last (and largest) asparagus processing plant closed at the end of the season, with General Mills (Green Giant) deciding to import lower-cost processed product from Peru. Although some processing growers are trying to move into the fresh market, which has limited opportunity and strong import competition, many will likely end up removing acreage from production and switching to other crops. Although imports of processed asparagus (largely canned) will likely continue to increase (imports in 2005 will be about 3 times larger than in 2000), imports of fresh-market asparagus have also been on the rise. Through July, fresh asparagus imports are up 28 percent from a year earlier and will likely end the year 50 percent higher than in 2000.

### **Per capita consumption of fresh asparagus at record high**

Although domestic disappearance of fresh-market asparagus continues to trend higher and is expected to reach a record-high 323 million pounds (1.1 pounds per person) in 2005, canned asparagus demand continues to decline. Per capita disappearance of canned asparagus is averaging 0.21 pound in 2000s, down 17 percent from the 1990s and 34 percent below the 1980s. ■

Source: *Vegetables and Melons Outlook/VGS-311/October 20, 2005/Economic Research Service, USDA.*